

13. SOME BIRD RECORDS FROM KUTCH

This morning while driving along a *kuchha* motor road outside Vijaya Vilas Palace, I saw and shot from a little pond a Sheld-duck [*Tadorna tadorna* (Linnaeus)]. As you will observe the only specimen mentioned in the BIRDS OF KUTCH was obtained by Col. C. B. O'Brien who evidently shot it at a tank near Bhachau in 1921. So this is the second specimen obtained in Kutch so far. Both the bill and the legs were pale pink. Therefore, I presume, it was a female.

The other bird I noticed in the compound of Sarad Bagh Palace, Bhuj, on November 25, was the male of the Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* (Linnaeus). It tallied with the description given on page 162 of the BIRDS OF KUTCH.

PALACE,
BHUJ (KUTCH),
December 4, 1966.

MAHARAO OF KUTCH

14. SOME INTERESTING MIGRANTS IN KUTCH

On December 11, 1966, I went up to the Laeja Creek, 8 miles west of Mandvi, to watch the waders and in the middle of the creek I saw a solitary Indian Skimmer (*Rhynchops albigollis* Swainson). I have seen this bird only once before in August 1947 in the same place (1956, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 54 : 190).

In addition to the Paradise Flycatcher [*Terpsiphone paradisi* (Linnaeus)] seen by H. H. Maharao Saheb in the Sarad Bagh garden in Bhuj last November, I saw one in Mandvi on December 10, (also male). Although this bird is rare in Kutch I have seen it on many occasions, mostly in the Vijaya Vilas Palace grounds at Mandvi.

The other rare visitor seen by me on December 18, was the White-browed Fantail Flycatcher (*Rhipidura aureola* Lesson) at Vijaya Vilas. I have seen this flycatcher only once before in Rapar (Rav).

This year also I was lucky enough to add one more bird to the Kutch list. On January 10, I came across the Forest Wagtail (*Motacilla indica* Gmelin) in my own compound at Bhuj. Only one bird was observed by me which seems to have taken up its residence in my garden here, for I saw the bird again today. This bird is not at all shy and allows a very close approach. Though very like the other wagtails in its general appearance, unlike the others, which move their tails vertically, this one moves it horizontally and with this movement of the tail its whole body also appears to sway gracefully.

BHUJ,
KUTCH,
January 16, 1967.

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